

EXPRESS and other new OWM Initiatives

Recently there has been a renewed push to update the current Marginal Risk Policy. The Office of Waste Management (OWM) staff found the current policy was too restrictive for Performing Parties to implement at many sites. As a result, a revised policy was developed that permits greater flexibility with Site eligibility criteria, and has been re-named the Expedited Policy for Remediation of Environmental Simple Sites (EXPRESS). This Policy is targeted towards Performing Parties and consultants seeking expedited review, presumptive remedies, and confirmation sampling protocols to streamline the approval process. Under this new Policy, the Performing Parties will be in constant contact with OWM staff beginning with a start up meeting at RIDEM within 7 days after RIDEM receives the EXPRESS Submission Package right through the issuance of a Program Letter within 30 days. This Policy also introduces several new areas of consultants' certification of information to expedite the site through the site remediation process. OWM is extremely excited to begin this new initiative and is rolling it out with a 90 day comment period to address any concerns that may arise before full scale implementation. During this period we hope to gather public comments and feedback from consultants and Performing Parties and try a few sites through the process as pilot studies.

In addition, as you may have heard, the Site Remediation Program within OWM has recently gone through a LEAN training program. LEAN is the ongoing process of identifying opportunities to reduce waste and improve the efficiency in which site remediation sites are handled throughout the program. Among other goals, one of the major goals of this training program was to increase the overall efficiency of the site remediation process. In early 2013, the site remediation staff identified several action items and worked cohesively to successfully implement key changes in order to achieve these goals. Some of these changes were:

- Formulation of standardized templates for the letters that are most frequently issued in the Site Remediation Program (including Letters of Responsibility, Program Letters, Remedial Decision Letters, Orders of Approvals, etc). Incorporating these template letters cuts down on staff time spent actually writing and reviewing these necessary letters and provides a high level of consistency in the letters issued by OWM.
- Ability for notifications to be submitted to OWM electronically.
- Elimination of the requirement for Orders of Approvals to be issued for pilot studies.
- Creation of a new policy of requiring Addendums to Site Investigations rather than submittal of new revised documents. This saves review time and allows OWM staff to go directly to the revised pages or Addendum rather than re-review the entire document.

The OWM is very excited to implement these and other changes in our continuing efforts to provide timely, efficient, and consistent service to the public and the regulated community. During the same 90 day comment period set up for the new EXPRESS policy, OWM welcomes feedback on these initiatives as well, in addition to any comments on other potential areas of improvement the regulated community would like to see OWM address in the future. The 90 day public comment period will run June 1st through September 1st.

If you have any questions on these or other new initiatives please contact Leo Hellested or Matt DeStefano at (401) 222-4700, ext. 7502 and ext. 7141, respectively, or leo.hellested@dem.ri.gov or matthew.destefano@dem.ri.gov.